

SECRET
(When Filled In)

DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

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PERTINENT INFORMATION						
14. The most important action during the period took place just two hours after the close of business on 14 Feb 69. This was exchange of Heinz FELFE [] for three German students convicted of espionage in the USSR, two of whom -Peter SONNTAG [] and Walter NAUMANN [] - had worked for [] and the third - Volker SCHAFFHAUSER [] - for []. Actually the East paid a much higher price for FELFE's release. The unpublicized part of the bargain was the release of 18 CATUSK agents convicted and imprisoned in East Germany who were released on 13 February and whose families will also be released before Easter 1969. Therefore any Western psychplay on the Felfe exchange should be deferred till the arrival of all the families in West Germany has been confirmed. According to @ BERNHARDT it was part of the bargain that the release of these people never be mentioned in connection with the Felfe exchange in order to hide from the public the high price the East paid for Felfe and the fact that the DDR was involved in the deal at all. Yet it was the freedom of these eighteen CATUSK Germans and their families who were convicted by the East Germans for espionage on behalf of the West Germans which persuaded the West German government to consummate the CATUSK exchange, not the freedom of three unmarried students who were convicted by the Soviets for espionage for non-German organizations. The immediate news effect of the exchange was quickly dissipated. A more thorough long-range propaganda campaign against CATUSK and WOFIRM can be expected, once the Soviets have thoroughly debriefed Felfe and agreed on the result they want to achieve. Incidentally, and as might be expected, UTILITY informed [] that he would not have agreed to Felfe's release even in consideration of the latest terms.						
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